THE HIN[redacted]O PATRIOT.

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 24TH MARCH.

IN earlier times the procuring of witnesses to perjure themselves by false swearing was more common than now, and men could be easily found to give any evidence upon oath that might be required of them. In England it was a common thing for these mercurial wretches to walk openly into Westminster Hall with a straw in one of their shoes to signify that they wanted employment as witnesses, hence originated the expression 'he is a man of straw' These false witnesses can boast of a high antiquity. A writer in the *Quarterly Review*, describing the ancient courts in Greece, says:—'we have all heard of a race of men who used in former days to ply about our own courts of law, and who from their manner of making known their occupation were recognised by the name of straw-shoes. An advocate or lawyer who wanted a convenient witness knew by these signs where to find one, and the colloquy between the parties was brief. Don't you remember, said the advocate. The party looked at the fee and gave no sign, but the fee increased and the powers of memory increased with it. Then come into court and swear it. And straw-shoes went into court and swore it. Athens abounded in straw-shoes."

THE corpse of the Dacoit Jhunda was burned the other day at Meerut. Large numbers followed his remains, and it is reported that the crowd was so eager to have a last look on the hero that they paid the *Kahars* who carried him a pice a peep, one old woman paying as much as two annas. The burning of the body of the supposed Jhunda adds much to keep up the suspicion that the veritable Jhunda has not been shot.

SAYS the *Times of India* :—Mr. Herbert Laughton will shortly exhibit Edison'sphonograph at the Framjee Cowasjee Institute, and those to whom the instrument is new will have an opportunity of hearing it reproduce the voices of the Governors of Bombay, past, present, and future. The phonograph, however, now that it has been perfected, is a great deal more than a fascinating toy. In New York, we are told, 7,000 phonographs have already superseded more than double that number of short-hand writers. The instrument is hired out at an annual rate varying from £8 to £12, not a tenth part of what a short-hand writer would require. Letters and any other communications can be talked into a blank phonogram and despatched by post. At clubs and offices and hotels callers can leave their message without the loss of time or risk. The business capabilites of the phonograph are infinite ; and it is beginning to be used scientifically in connection with the Aismograph to the condition of railway bridges, &c. It has been introduced into dolls that can say "Good Night" or repeat Watts's Evening Hymn, and into clocks that tell you when it is time to go to bed. Mr. Laughton is travelling through India partly with the idea of amusing his audiences and partly in the view of creating a business demand for an instrument that will shortly be ready for use in large quantities. The new instrument will contain numerous modifications of the instrument now exhibited, and will be automatic and self-adjusting in its operation."

THE Bi-metallic League are preparing a motion again for the House of Commons to affirm the desirability of another International Conference.

IT is generally believed that the new scheme of examination for the Indian Civil Service will be made public very shortly, and that it will prove eminently satisfactory to those interested in superseding cram by real ability. The *Oxford Magazine* says :—"The petitions from the Universities have been carefully considered, and in the result the old studies of Oxford will come out very favourably. The Secretary of State for India has been in Oxford within the last few days, gaining information about certain details in the final arrangement, and taking the advice of those who have been chiefly concerned hitherto with the Indian civilians here ; and he expressed himself most anxious to consult in every way the interest of the University." We confidently believe that under the new system the Viceroy will receive a far larger proportion of really able men than has been the case hitherto. This, at least, is the aim of the Secretary of State.

TUESDAY, 25TH MARCH.

THE influenza has been somewhat dignified in the eyes of the public by the recent discovery that Schiller had it and Goethe wrote about it. In May, 1712, Schiller went to Mannheim to see the second presentation of his "Robbers" on the stage. After attending one performance of his tragedy Schiller hurried off to Stuttgart in the hope of escaping the epidemic which was raging there. The day after his arrival there he wrote to Dalberg, manager of the Mannheim Theatre : "Since coming here I have more than paid for all my pleasure with you by my sufferings from the horrible epidemic which, to my unutterable disgust, has rendered me incapable of work." At about the same time Goethe was complaining in a letter to the Duke Karl August that the "unusually warm weather had become a standard topic of conversation, just as was the influenza short time ago." The great Kant dignified the grip by trying to investigate its causes. He surmised that the insects which were responsible for it had been imported from China to Russia, whence they had spread to the western part of the Continent.

THE following note on Exchange with India has been sent to the *Overland Mail* :—The "demonetisation of silver," and its twin sister "Bimetallism," have so long held the field of debate, that it is a relief to be able to anticipate an early termination of the tiresome discussions on these topics. "The "silver question," as it affects the United Kingdom, is nothing more than a matter of foreign exchange with countries having a monometallic silver standard currency. British trade with European countries in that category is so small, however, as to be almost inappreciable compared with the vastness of their commercial relations with the Indian Empire ; and the question, therefore, really resolves itself into one of exchange with India. In the forthcoming number of *Blackwood's Magazine* the subject will be exhaustively discussed in all its essential aspects, and so conclusively, that the problem will be solved, or claimed to be solved, to actual demonstration absolutely beyond the possibility of cavil or controversy. British manufacturers and export merchants connected with the East India trade, who have suffered so much from the outrageous embargo placed on English goods for so many years past, will no doubt hail this news with satisfaction, will probably make their voice heard, in no uncertain tones, both in and out of the House of Commons, in the pressing demand for an immediate restoration of the legitimate exchange, which at the present moment should not be lower (but substantially higher) than 2*s.* ½*d.* per rupee. This solution of the question will be as welcome as it is indisputable and will give an effectual quietus to the mischievous fallacy (to use a mild term) known as "the depreciation of the rupee."

THE financial position of the Postal Department has much improved during the last official year, there being a net revenue of 17 lakhs, as compared with a net revenue of 11 lakhs in 1887-88.

THE Post Office Savings Banks continue to grow in popularity. The proportion of Natives to the total number of depositors is increasing. Something like 88 per cent. of the total number of accounts belong to Indians.

IN the Paris Exhibition a chief interest centred in the diamond exhibit. That which commanded more attention than all else was a model of the Eiffel Tower, 3¼ feet high, composed entirely of diamonds. The *Kohinoor*, which has ranked as the prince of jewels, weighs 103½ carats ; but the *Imperial* diamond there displayed weighs 180 carats, while one still larger, the largest in the world, weighs 228½ carats. Antwerp is the principal diamond cutting centre ; and it has fifty workshops given wholly to this employment, furnishing work for 3,500 men, who earn from $40 to a very much larger sum per week. It requires the labor of three weeks to drill a hole in a diamond the size of a pin by a steel tool revolving, 14,000 times in a minute. The principal diamond mines of the world are in South Africa ; and the chief are four in number. The Kimberly is the chief of all, and from 1871 to 1885 yielded 17½ million carats of diamonds, and weighing, as precious stones, 3½ tons. To obtain these stones, 20,000,000 tons of earth and rock were excavated.

WEDNESDAY, 26TH MARCH.

CREMATION is making rapid progress in France. As many as twelve corpses are sometimes reduced to ashes in a single day in Paris. A new furnace has been set up which burns coke. By this system a body could be cremated at an outlay of a little over a franc.

TWILIGHT.—The faint light, known under this term, which is perceived for some time after sunset and before sunrise, is produced by the reflection of light from the atmosphere. When the sun appears to sink below the horizon, due to the rotation of the globe, the rays of sunlight no longer reach in a direct manner that portion of the earth on which we stand, but as they pass up through the atmospheric strata above, some of them are reflected downwards, just as from a looking glass, towards the earth, and illuminate its surface. At first the light, falling against the lowest and densest portions of the atmosphere, is reflected in great abundance ; but as the sun descends to a greater distance beneath our horizon, his rays ascend into the higher and consequently less dense aerial strata above us. A smaller number of them, therefore, at this stage suffers reflection, and as this number is constantly diminishing, the strength of the twilight diminishes in the same proportion, till ultimately the solar rays fall on aerial strata so lofty and rarefied as to be wholly incapable of reflecting light, and the darkness of night accordingly supervenes. In the morning the change from darkness to light takes place inversely by the same gradations.

MR. BALDIN LATHAM, who was lately employed to enquire into the Bombay drainage system, and has now returned to his work of devising a drainage system for Cairo, is to be consulted, amongst other projects, when he returns to India next cold weather, on the Bengal drainage scheme.

PAPER tough as wood is said now to be made of mixing chloride of zinc with the pulp in the course of manufacture. It has been found that the greater the degree of concentration of the zinc solution the greater will be the toughness of the paper. It can be used for making boxes, combs, for roofing, and even, it is added, for making boats.

For three years past there has been on exhibition, in one of the lecturing halls of the Royal College of Medicine, in Berlin, a man who is a puzzle to physicians and surgeons. His body is so translucent that the circulation of the blood, both arterial and venous, can be plainly seen and studied. This man, from a physiological standpoint, is a marvel without a parallel. The leading physicians of Germany have seen him and lectured upon him. He is now in New York. In the lower limbs there is an entire absence of bone That is, the bones, if there ever were any, never became ossified, and are therefore thin, flat, and flimsy cartilages. He has never been able to walk, but is wheeled about from place to place in a rolling chair.

THE Chandlin Maharani of Rewah may yet hope to have her grievances redressed, as Mr. Bradlaugh has been devoting his attention to them. Pressure has been put upon the Secretary of State to give his decision on the Maharani's petition, addressed to the Government of India.

THE *Standard's* Berlin correspondent hears from a good source that the Chinese Government is hastening to mass troops, and is making other warlike preparations, on the Siberian frontier, serious fears being entertained at Pekin that Russia contemplates an early attack on China in that quarter.

THE whole station of Agra is prostrated with the influenza ; the Military, civil station, and other hospitals are full with patients, and tents have had to be pitched for others. Several of the public offices are closed owing to the Assistants being away. As it appears now to be prevalent nearly all over India, the following prescriptions of the treatment of the disease may be read with some interest: *Preventives.* Persons should live in well-ventilated houses. Should be well-covered and protected from draughts. Should live on plain but nourishing diet. *Medicine.*—Muriate of quinine one grain doses with little brandy twice daily. Homœopathic medicine Nux Vomica 6th dil, morning and evening.

THURSDAY, 27TH MARCH.

THE post of Additional Member in the Imperial Council is not after all without its monetary advantages. During the Calcutta session official members draw Rs. 916 a month, while in attendance, in addition to the pay of their substantive appointments. Non-official members, not being permanent residents of Calcutta, draw a lump sum of Rs 10,000 for attendance during the whole session; Rs. 7,500 and Rs. 5,000 being given for short periods. In Simla, the official allowance is the same as in Calcutta, but no grant is made to non-officials, who, as a rule, do not take part in the summer session.

THE *Daily News* states that Sir Roper Lethbridge is urging Lord Cross to allow a few of the best Uncovenanted servants to come to England to give evidence before the Select Committee of Enquiry into the grievances of their class.

THE Emperor William has appointed Prince Albert Victor of Wales a Major in the Blucher Hussars, of which the Prince of Wales is Colonel.

HER MAJESTY the Queen left Portsmouth on Tuesday morning, and is on her way to France.

IN the Commons Sir James Fergusson, replying on behalf of Sir John Gorst to a question by Mr. Bradlaugh, said that the Government of India in 1889 thought that the time had come to place the Maharaja Scindia under an English tutor, that Mr. Johnstone had been appointed to the post, and that the Council of Regency at Gwalior had approved of the appointment.

THE Association of the Chambers of Commerce has adopted a motion that Mr. J. N. Maclean be asked to present a memorial to Government urging them to continue to give their attention to the more rapid development of railways in India.

A CASE of *zoolum* on the part of the police is reported from Poona. The local *Observer* gives the following particulars:—"A Eurasian decided to leave Bombay for the benefit of his health, and having chosen Poona wherein to recruit himself, proceeded to the 'corrupt' country for that purpose. While at Poona, he was arrested and placed in the lock-up by the police, who adjudged him a vagrant, because his appearance lent evidence to his vagrancy. It was, however, discovered that the man was encumbered with a rupee and some annas, that he had a 'job' in Bombay, that he was willing to return to work if the police only allowed him, and that he was out of reach of the Vagrancy Act. But the police did not care to see him in *chowky*, from where he was released after twenty-four hours' imprisonment and comparative starvation without being placed before a magistrate. The Poona police claim the credit of being one of the most idle set of men in the world; and if they alighted upon this plan of justifying their existence as paid servants of the Government, the sooner the Government warns them off the course, the better." It is strange that no steps have been taken in Poona to sift the matter.

THE *Indian Financial Review* holds Sir David Barbour personally responsible for some fraudulent disclosures of the contents of the Budget, until the perpetrator is discovered, and writes:—"There can now be no possible doubt that the principal transactions disclosed in the Budget Statement, a Sterling Loan of £5,400,000 in England, no Rupee Loan in India, and an advance in the duty on spirits, were all well-known to certain Jewish and other operators some days before the publication of the Budget Statement, and they bought largely of Government securities and imported spirits. The information they must have got or obtained from some one connected with the Financial or Printing Department of the Government of India, and as the proceeding is a scandalous one, the public expect the Government authorities thoroughly to enquire into the matter, and thus expose the delinquent or delinquents. An Act was recently passed making it a criminal offence to disclose official secrets, and this is exactly a case in point. The person or persons who have done this wrong to the community ought to be severely punished, and the Government ought not to allow the thing to rest. We hold Sir David Barbour personally responsible for this grave irregularity until the perpetrator is discovered."

THE Indian Factory Act Amendment Bill has been postponed till next cold weather session, there being no urgent need for passing a measure chiefly relating to compulsory holidays when most of the mills at Bombay and Calcutta are working half time.

THE Local Goverments are being consulted on the proposed Lepers Bill with a view to ascertaining what machinery is available for segregating the victims of leprosy, and what provision could be made in the way of asylums were the principle of segregation adopted.

FRIDAY, 28TH MARCH.

HERE are the facts of an "accidental" shooting case at Ahmedpur, a small village in the Kapurthala State, supplied to the *Tribune* by a correspondent. 'As usual in such cases, the perpetrators of the outrage are some European soldiers and the victim a native. The accused soldiers, it would appear, went out secretly on a pig-shooting excursion, at night time, in the vicinity of the village, as no one is allowed to kill a pig in the State Preserves without previous sanction of the Superintendent. On their arrival, they began to fire their guns. On hearing reports, some of the villagers ran towards the spot, and one of them caught hold of one of the soldiers. But he was so cruelly beaten that he swooned away. A young Musalman then came to his rescue, and he was shot down by one of the soldiers. The bullet passed through his chest and the man fell on the ground senseless. The soldiers then went about their business quite unconcerned. They afterwards went to the length to shoot at some villagers who came to carry the body of the Musalman, but failed to hit any of them. And at last the soldiers ran away. The next day the Musalman died of his wounds in the Rundhir hospital.'

THE Committee on the Merchandise Marks Act in Calcutta has completed its labours. It is understood the rules will be framed on the basis of a liberal rather than a literal interpretation of the provisions of the Act.

THE latest news from the ChinLushai force is that the half-battalion of the 2nd Battalion 4th Gurkhas with General Tregear will join the headquarters of regiment with General Symons at Haka on the 31st instant. The holding of Haka and Fort White will be entrused to his battalion, a wing being stationed at each place. The road between Demagri and Fort Tregear is to be placed under an officer of the Royal Engineers with a suitable establishment for its maintenance. General Symons has secured the complete submission of the Tashons, who have paid up last year's revenue and a fine of Rs. 5,000.

THE reports from the railway survey party at work between Calcutta and Chyebassa are of the most hopeful kind, and it would seem that a line from Howrah through Midnapore to the Bengal-Nagpur system could be constructed at a resonable outlay. This would materially shorten the distance on the direct route from Calcutta to Bombay, and would make the the Bengal-Nagpur Company independent altogether of the East Indian Railway, except, perhaps, as regards station accommodation at the Howrah terminus Midnapore would in this case become the junction for the East Coast Railway, the construction of which is now under the consideration of Government. The gauge of this line, by the way, has not yet been settled, but it is believed that the proposal of the Madras authorities will eventually be accepted by the Secretary of State, and the rails be laid on the board gauge.

ON Monday an enthusiastic and excited public meeting, attended by 6,000 persons regarding the Mahabir mandir, was held at Durbhanga. Babu Lalitesheswar Singh, cousin to his Highness the Maharaja Bahadur of Durbhanga presided on the occasion. The following five resolutions were unanimously passed: *First*:—That this meeting wishes to place on record that the report that Government means to take no further step in the Mahabir temple case has greatly unsettled the minds of Hindus. *Second*: That His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor be petitioned to publish the report of the Commissioner in the Mahabir temple case with the decision of the Government thereon. *Third*: That his Highness the Maharaja Bahadur of Durbhunga, who assured the Hindus that the Government had promised to punish adequately those who had outraged their religious feelings by destroying the image and temple of Mahabirjee, and in deference to whose wishes all proceedings in the matter had been postponed, be respectfully informed that under the circumstances that have transpired the Hindus can no longer abstain from taking legal steps in the matter. *Fourth*: That an appeal be sent round to the press and to the Hindus throughout India requesting their help and co-operation in the matter. *Fifth*: That arrangements be made to raise further subscriptions for the cost of legal steps to be taken in the matter.

MR. C. J. O'DONNELL, C. S., whose services have been placed at the disposal of the Financial Department, is appointed Superintendent of Census Operations, in the Lower Provinces of Bengal, with effect from 1st April, 1890.

A SERIOUS riot occurred at Koepenick, a suburb of Berlin, at a workmen's meeting, assembled for the purpose of discussing the eight hours' system. The Gendermes were forced to charge the crowd.

SATURDAY, 29TH MARCH.

A COMMISSION is employed just now in re-settling and correcting the boundary between the Nizam's State and British territory, and it has been proposed to transfer some Hyderabad villages to the jurisdiction of the Bombay Government, and some British villages to the Nizam. A Hyderabad correspondent reports that in certain villages of the Nizam's territory which it is proposed to transfer to the Bombay Administration a memorial has been set on foot for presentation to both Governments, praying that they may be left as they are.

SPEAKING of the Dum Dum murder case the *Pioneer* writes:

One point which came out only too clearly in the review of the proceedings in the Dum Dum murder case by the Full Bench of the Calcutta High Court was the want of a full record of the evidence given in the Sessions Court and of the Judge's address to the jury. Mr. Justice Norris, who had tried the case, had his notes certainly of what the witnesses had said, but he had to trust to his memory as to the terms in which he summed up. There must necessarily have been a conflict of opinion as to the precise words which he used, and this indeed occurred more than once. The Standing Counsel, for example, was not always at one with the Judge as to what had been said; while Mr. Woodroffe, counsel for the prisoner, was at the disadvantage of not having been engaged in the original trial. In Sessions Courts in the mafussil the Judges have to place on the record not merely the evidence *in extenso*, but to reproduce as exactly as possible their address to the jury or assessors. The result is that when a case is appealed the higher tribunal has all the facts before it, plus the Judge's direction, and it has not to grope in the dark as to what really happened at the trial. In cases where a man's liberty or even life is concerned, it is of the first importance that there should be no doubt as to the evidence given and the views expressed by the Judge when engaged in the responsible task of explaining to the jury what the law is, to what particular points they should direct their attention, and the manner in which they should arrive at their verdict. Looking at the recent proceedings we can realise how the difficult duties of the Full Bench would have been lightened from first to last had they had placed before them a verbatim report of the trial from the time the two prisoners were arraigned to the actual passing of the sentence of death upon O'Hara. Thus the exact words used when the Judge warned the informer Gouldsburgh that his pardon was only conditional, thereby implying that he was an accomplice, could not be contrasted with those employed when he told the jury that the man was *not* an accomplice; neither could the terms in which misdirection in points of law had been made be known in detail. The Judges and counsel alike felt the want of a complete record, and in similar cases, should they ever occur, the difficulty will be repeated. It would really seem desirable, in the interests of public justice, that steps should be taken to secure verbatim reports of trials in our High Courts. Shorthand-writers are not expensive luxuries. Surely in this country, where the administration of justice pays its own way, some allotment of funds could be made for a reporter or two in each High Court, distinct from the official who summarises cases and judgments for publication in the Law Reports. The Bar is rich enough to share in the cost, if the Government cannot see their way to sanctioning the full pay of such appointments.

THE motion by Mr. Labouchere for the abolition of the House of Lords was rejected by the House of Commons by a majority of sixty-two votes.

THE motion of Lord Salisbury to adopt the report of the Parnell Commission has, after a protracted debate, been adopted by the House of Lords without a division. The Gladstonian Liberals abstained from bringing forward any amendments to the motion.

MR. WILLIAM YOUNG, Judicial Commissioner of Oudh, has been appointed to officiate as a judge of the Allahabad High Court, during the absence of Mr. Justice Tyrrell on leave.

SERIOUS rioting took place on Thursday among the students of St. Petersburg University in consequence of their having demanded certain reforms in the regulations which were not granted. Five hundred arrests were made, and the troops are guarding the neighbourhood, where all traffic has been forbidden.

DISSATISFACTION is again expressed with the University Examinations in Madras and Bombay. In the former Presidency, 83 per cent of the candidates failed in the First Examination in Arts. There is now an outcry for grace marks.

THE Umballa-Kalka Railway having been finally settled, fresh and reliable statistics are now being collected of the traffic on the Simila-Kalka road, with the object of ascertaining whether railway extension from Kalka to Simla is likely to give a fair return on the outlay.

THE "Indecent Advertisment Act" of 1889 came into force on the first day of this year. Its effect in London was startling. Although the quacks, against whom it was principally levelled, were exceedingly busy in circulating their literature right up to the end of the year, on the first of January not a man could be found in the streets giving it away. Those who know the Strand and some other London thoroughfares, we are told, will appreciate this change for the better. The Bombay Government has done well in following the English action on Zola. As we have stated in a previous issue, the Calcutta Missionary Conference has already memorialized Viceroy in Council on this subject as it affects Imperial legislation.

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The Hindoo Patriot

Monday, March 31, 1890.

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Last week we were barely able to give an outline of the Budget Statement. We congratulate Sir David Barbour on the satisfactory improvement shown to have taken place in the financial position of the Government of India. Since Sir Evelyn Baring's "Prosperity Budget" of 1882 83 we have not had the good fortune to see such a satisfactory Statement. The accounts for 1889-90 show much better results than the estimates anticipated; the Government is said to have over three crores of rupees in hand, more than was calculated upon a year ago; and, moreover, the Statement says that "there are strong grounds for holding that in 1891-92 we shall at least find ourselves in a position of comparative ease, with a surplus in hand, moderate in amount, but sufficient to allow of some improvement in financial conditions." The accounts close with a balance of Rx. 37,000 instead of the expected deficit of Rx. 200,000; the estimates for the coming year calculate upon a surplus of Rx. 304,900. This is extremely satisfactory, no doubt. But as the Statement makes no mention of remission of taxation of any kind for the present, we do not think that the Indian taxpayer has very much cause to rejoice over this surplus until it is applied to the reduction of his burden. Not only a section of the Press is for a reduction in the taxation, but, in the Debate which took place on Friday last, some of the hon'ble members also were commendably anxious to see some sort of taxation reduced.

We know full well that it is too early yet to speak of any remission. As the hon'ble Raja Durga Charan Law holds, 'there will be time enough next year to think of it, if the position of affairs continue to be prosperous.' His Excellency the Viceroy from his place in the Council, clearly stated that the Government was not in a position now to adopt such a course. His Lordship said:—"The removal of an existing tax was very nearly as serious a matter as the imposition of a new one. A Government had no right to abandon revenue until it had a reasonable certainty that, at all events, as far as it was able to foresee the future, it would be able to dispense with that revenue. A policy which would impose taxes one year and remove them the next because there was a break in the clouds, with the prospect of being compelled to reimpose them immediately afterwards, was not worthy of the name of a policy, and would be fatal not only to the stability of the finances, but to the comfort and convenience of the public. The Government were not yet in a position permanently to abandon revenue to the extent involved in any of the above proposals." We fully understand the weight of the remark; but a remission of taxation would have been most desirable, if the circumstances had permitted it.

If, however, you cannot remit taxation why do you heap up expenditure—expenditure not for the good of the hard-pressed taxpayer but for some luxurious departments of your own? Almost the whole of the revenue of the country is eaten up by the Army. The maintenance of an efficient army is no doubt indispensibly necessary for a country like this; but the cost on this head is nowhere so enormous as in India. Sir David Barbour talks of the dangers of the future. We agree with him in the statement but in a somewhat different sense. The danger is certainly very great in heaping up the Military expenditure at this critical juncture of the embarrassed condition of the finances of the country. Since 1885 the number of troops in India has been increased by 30,000. Sir David himself has admitted that there would be no justification for such expenditure if a great war were not at least a possibility of the future. But on the face of this, in the estimates for 1890-91 the net military expenditure shows an increase of no less than Rx. 6116,000. And this is exclusive of a provision of Rx. 892,300 on account of Special Defences.

In showing the improvement in the financial condition of the Government the Finance Minister stated in plain terms that it was not the rise in exchange to which this prosperity was mainly due. The rate of exchange was taken at 1s. 4.38*d*. whereas during a large portion of the year it was lower than this, the average rate being 1s. 4.522*d*. This, he estimated, gave a gain of 20 lakhs in round numbers in exchange. He considered that the great uncertainty as to the future relations of the precious metals is beset with serious dangers. "Although the cessation of the hitherto continuous fall in the value of the rupee measured in gold has greatly improved the financial position for the time being, the uncertainty as the future relations of the precious metals constitutes a very serious danger, and one which it would be worth our while to make great sacrifices to escape. The future of the Currency question appears to rest at the present time in the hands of the United States of America." However correct Sir David may be in his views, we hold a different opinion and think the solution of the exchange problem, in so far as India is concerned, rests with none but with our Government and the Secretary of State for India.

The chief improvement is shown to have taken place under the head of Opium in which there was an increase of revenue owing to better prices per chest realised for Bengal Opium than was estimated for, and a decrease of expenditure owing to a poor crop. The total gain in opium in comparison with the estimate, was over 99 lakhs and 50 thousand. What is to be regretted is that this state of things is simply temporary and cannot be relied upon to continue any length of time. There are, however, other improvements in the revenue that may be considered of a stable and permanent nature. These branches of revenue include Land Revenue, Salt, Excise, Stamps, Provincial dues, Customs and Assessed taxes which all amounted in the estimates for the year to 76 lakhs 65 thousand, *viz* 29 lakhs 61 thousand in Land Revenue, 14 lakhs 96 thousand in Salt, 7 lakhs 91thousand in Excise, 3 lakhs 16 thousand in Stamps; 6 lakhs 96 thousand in Customs and 11 lakhs 27 thousand in Forests. There are other heads under which an increase is shown such as Registration and Tributes from the Native States and these contributed not a small share to the bulk of the revenue. As regards Excise, Sir David Barbour, possibly with an eye to the recent controversy on the subject, remarks:—"The rapid advance in the Madras Revenue is worthy of notice. It is due to better management, to an efficient preventive service, to the gradual and systematic enhancement of the rate of taxation which has now in some districts reached the tariff rate, and to the extension of the Bombay system of taxing the trees from which toddy for consumption or manufacture into spirit is drawn. In Lower Burmah the increase is due to raising the duty on spirit locally manufactured." On this principle, the Finance Member thinks the Customs will yield a larger increase in the coming year when the Indian Tariff Amendment Act, which raises the duty on imported spirits from Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 per gallon, will be in force in the country. There is also a moderate increase of net revenue from Railways and Irrigation Works, but against this is to be set off an increase of expenditure on account of the coming Census and a reduction in miscellaneous receipts.

The prospects of 1890-91 seem, however, on the whole, to be not much encouraging. The Statement says:—'Summing up the whole case, and putting aside all matters of minor importance, it may be said that in 1889-90 we have a large surplus owing to temporary improvement under Opium, to a general growth of Revenue which will be maintained and will affect future years, to short expenditure on Special Defences and in connection with the Army, to reduction in the Interest charge, to improvements in the Railway Revenue account, and to a rise in the rate of Exchange. In 1890-91 we have only a moderate surplus, because we lose the temporary improvement under Opium, because we no longer receive the special contribution of Rx. 490,000 from Local Governments because there are special demands in connection with the equipment of the army, and because there is an increase in the net interest charge as well as an increase in the expenditure on Special Defences."

It is some relief to learn that Upper Burmah is advancing rapidly towards ability to pay its own way. The estimates for the new province for next year show an increase of revenue amounting to over 20 lakhs and a decrease of expenditure of over 6 lakhs, representing a net gain of 26 lakhs in comparison with the revised estimates for 1889-90. So far so good. The Indian taxpayer will at least be spared the anxieties for this newly acquired territory. We are also glad that there will be no borrowing in the open market next year on account of the construction of Railways and Canals, not chargeable against Revenue; and so far the financial conditions of the country may be said to have been improved. In mentioning this fact His Excellency the Viceroy very justly remarked that, of the duties which the Government of India owed to the tax-payers of the country, the duty of, as far as possible, avoiding an increase of the national indebtedness, was one of the most binding. Whatever may be their apprehensions with regard to the future, they had at least the consolation of knowing that the indebtedness of India had, up to the present, been kept within the most moderate limits, and that the burden of that indebtedness was fortunately tending to diminish and not to increase. The facts regarding the public debt are facts to which, amid much that is doubtful and precarious, they can look with unqualified satisfaction.

THE FAMINE GRANT.

The most prominent feature of the Budget Statement is the restoration of the Famine Grant. We are sure the name of the Grant (as they choose to call it) would not have been heard again but for the strenuous efforts of Messrs Bradlaugh and Digby. In 1886 the very existence of the Fund was denied by Sir Auckland Colvin (the then Finance Minister) and the Secretary of State for India, and it was through the untiring exertions of these two noble Englishmen that the subject was brought before the House of Commons and an Account produced in July last. When the Grant was started by Lord Lytton's Government in 1877-78 its amount was fixed at £1,500,000, the necessary surplus being secured by fresh taxation; and this taxation was no other than the License Tax. The present Finance Minister complains that misapprehensions as to the nature and effects of the Grant seem to have taken place to some extent. And why? What led to these misapprehensions? Certainly, if there is any one responsible for the disaffection and complaint against the Government that it has so long misappropriated to some other purposes the fund which was originally meant for providing relief in time of famine only (at least so the people believed it to be intended for) it was no other than the name itself. The Hon'ble Raja Durga Churn Law rightly calls it a 'misnomer.' In the debate on the Budget the Rajah remarked:—'It is this name which has misled the public mind. People naturally thought that the object of the Grant was the provision of funds for the actual relief in time of famine of persons who were in distress. This has never been the exclusive object of the Grant, as I can testify from my personal knowledge, having been at one time one of the Commissioners connected with the Fund. When the policy of strengthening the finances in connection with Famine was originally adopted, it was intended to employ a portion of the surplus every year in the direction of reducing debt. This policy was slightly changed in subsequent years, and it was decided that one half of the Grant should be devoted to the construction of Railways and canals, which would protect the country from famine, and the other half applied to the reduction of public debt. There was a further departure from the original policy, when it was determined that the Grant should be appropriated to meet loss arising from Protective Railways, and that the interest charge on certain Railways should also be a charge against the Grant. All this shows that the views regarding the Grant have been constantly changing, and there is no wonder that there should be misapprehensions in the public mind regarding its nature and effects. The complaints

which have been frequently made regarding its misappropriation have arisen from such misapprehensions, and it would be as well to remove the cause in which they had their origin. The main object being simply reduction of debt, and construction of Protective works, where is the necessity for calling the present appropriation of the surplus by the name of "Grant for Famine Relief and Insurance?" So far as I understand it, it is nothing but a Reserve Fund. "In practice," to use the words of the Finance Minister, "it is an insurance against temporary financial disaster of any kind." I should, therefore, think that if a name must be given to it, it should be called simply a "Reserve Fund." The Raja went on to suggest that if the Finance Minister would in a prosperous year lay by Rx. 1,500,000 and apply a certain portion of this amount to the reduction of public debt, and the balance to the construction of Protective works, the object aimed at would be attained without creating mistaken ideas in the public mind. If at times of financial difficulties no surplus could be reserved for this purpose, or if public exigencies required that the Grant should be employed in a different direction, no valid complaints could then be made for misappropriation of a Grant, which, under an inappropriate name, has so long misled the public. The suggestion, we need hardly add, demands serious consideration.

We, however, congratulate, Sir David Barbour on his being able to restore the Grant, partial though it is. The manner in which the Famine Grant is to be restored is thus explained in the Statement: "We receive this year a special contribution of Rx. 490,000 from Local Governments. This transaction is carried out by debiting the amount to the balances of Local Governments and crediting it to the Government of India. Thus there will be a surplus of Rx. 2,243,200 in 1889-90 and of Rx. 794,900 in 1890-91. Of the surplus of 1889-90, a sum of Rx. 433,500 will be utilised to raise the total Famine Grant to Rx. 600,000; of the surplus of 1890-91, a sum of Rx. 524,500 will be utilised to raise the Famine Grant of that year to a like amount. The surplus of the Revised Estimate will then stand at Rx. 1,809,700, and the surplus of the Budget-Estimate of 1890-91 will be Rx. 270,400. The amount provided to meet the net charge on account of the Indian Midland Railway and the Bengal-Nagpore Railway is Rx. 458,100 in 1889-90, and Rx. 432,800 in 1890-91. The final result, then, of the policy, which the Government of India has decided to adopt, is that in the current year we have provided in all Rx. 1,058,100 (Rx. 600,000 *plus* Rx. 458,100) on account of the Famine Grant, that in the coming year we have provided Rx. 1,032,800 (Rx. 600,000 *plus* Rx. 432,800), on the same account, and that we have nevertheless a surplus of Rx. 1,809,700 in 1889-90, and of Rx. 270,400 in 1890-91; these surpluses are available for the reduction of borrowing, and will in practice be used for that purpose."

The hon'ble member concluded his remarks in the following terms:—"So that practically the Famine Grant has been more than restored for the years 1889-90 and 1890-91, as we have in the two years a sum of Rx. 4,171,000 available for the purposes for which the policy of the yearly grant of Rx. 1,500,000 for Famine Relief and Insurance was adopted." It is more than a relief to learn on the authority of His Excellency the Viceroy himself that the Government of India will henceforth try its best to annually dispose of its surplus revenues on this important head. His Lordship said:

"I trust that nothing may occur to prevent those who are responsible for the Government of India from henceforth giving effect to the wise intentions of our predecessors, and so regulating the income and expenditure of the Imperial Government, that the pressure of the bad years may always be to some extent relieved out of the affluence of the good. It was only in consequence of exceptional pressure, only because its poverty, and not its will consented, that the Government of India found itself constrained during the last few years to cease from making this annual provision; and, considering the nature of the taxation to which it had become necessary to resort, I do not think it will be seriously argued that, in preferring a temporary suspension of the arrangements for insurance against famine to the imposition of additional taxation, Lord Dufferin's Government did not exercise a wise choice. Our first duty, now that we find ourselves face to face with a more promising condition of affairs, is to revert to the sound policy instituted by our predecessors, and to endeavour in each year to provide out of our current revenues a substantial sum to be applied towards the alleviation of the permanent financial liabilities of the State. I trust that a considerable portion, at all events, of the sum thus appropriated may be applied to the construction of railways which under less fortunate circumstances might have remained unbuilt, or for which it might have been necessary to provide capital out of borrowed funds—railways the construction of which will not only bring a direct return to the National Exchequer, but also afford increased security to a part of the people of this country against risk from famine."

"FORCED BENEVOLENCES."

THE object of the Provincial Contracts as enunciated in the Government Resolution of 1886-87 was to impose upon provincial resources an "equitable but not an excessive share of general burden." Directly antagonistic as it might be to the spirit of decentralization which obtained in the counsels of the Empire for a time, it had to be submitted to in times of grave financial crisis. When, however, such a crisis has admittedly passed away it was but natural to expect that the Supreme Government should do something to relieve the Provincial Funds of these demands. The last Budget with its surplus did not take notice of the matter which evoked some hostile criticisms from Mr. Evans and Sir Steuart Bayley. Mr. Evans observed that the contract was necessitated at a time when the finances showed a deficit of two millions odd. But when, instead of a deficit, there had been a surplus however small, one would have naturally thought that the Imperial Government would have seen its way to restore the contribution; and as they had not done so, some explanation was at least expected as to why they had retained it. Leaving other provinces aside, the finances of the Government of Bengal were not in a very flourishing condition. They had had distress to contend against in consequence of the failure of crops in some parts of the country, and there had been a deficiency in the abkari revenue. That being so, it did not seem right to retain the money when the necessity for retaining it had disappeared. We are well aware of the watchful interest shown by the Government of India in the welfare of the people; but that was no reason why provincial needs should be subordinated to imperial projects.

Sir Steuart Bayley also spoke in the same strain and said that it was scarcely necessary that he should remind the Council why those contributions were taken. It was supposed that it would be difficult to make both ends meet. Under these circumstances local Governments were asked to contribute and they did; the share of the Bengal Government amounting to ten lakhs. This year they had extreme difficulties to contend with in Bengal. There had been scarcity in some parts, the excise revenue had diminished, and they had been compelled to refuse even small requests—in fact, they had been actually starving the administration: in other words, they had nothing to spend on any fresh developments. It was no doubt right, when the Government of India were in a grave and critical crisis, that local Governments should be called on to assist. But now that the gloomy forecast had been dispelled, and they had a surplus of 2¾ millions, ought not Provincial Governments to expect a refund of their contributions? Had the state of things which existed now been known a year ago, he felt sure it would never have occurred to the Finance Minister to have asked for these contributions as it would have cut the basis upon which the Provincial contracts were founded. That being so, was there any reason—these circumstances having been removed—why the money taken from Provincial Governments should not be restored, and sent back once more to the *status quo ante*. The loss of ten lakhs had put the Bengal Government to great inconvenience, as among other results it did not permit them to increase the number of munsiffs, to improve the police, and to contribute towards works of public utility. He, therefore, asked the Finance Minister if he would not be able to restore the contribution.

But Sir David Barbour was in no mood to be won over. He said that it would seem from the remarks of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor that all that was necessary for the prospects of Bengal as regards the prevention of famine, the improvement of Courts, &c., was to get back the ten lakhs. He would, however, take the opportunity to point out that the ten lakhs were not taken yearly, but once for all, and if distributed, the contribution would not amount to one pice per head of population, which would not add very materially to the happiness or prosperity of the country. It was with the greatest regret he had proposed to take any thing from the local Governments, but having taken it, it should be looked upon as a surrender once for all. Sir David forgets that the pice-a-head calculation in these matters is misleading, and although the ten lakhs spread over the whole population would not achieve any marvellous results, yet this modest sum in the aggregate when properly employed would remedy some of the most crying grievances that the provincial administration has to suffer. As it is the grievances must continue at least for another year.

INDIAN COUNCILS BILL.

THE Mail brings further accounts of the debate in the Peers regarding the Indian Councils Bill. Lord Northbrook admitted that he was struck with the ability and general moderation which marked the discussion of many difficult questions at the Congress, but regretted to observe that some publications issued in connection with the Congress had been couched in language which, if largely read, might be decidedly dangerous. His Lordship is right to some extent in this remark; but it has to be borne in mind that these unfortunate utterances were neither authorised nor sympathised with by any of the Congresses, and irresponsible doings of any single individual cannot vitiate the whole of the Congress proceeding. We do not understand his Lordship's observation that any plan by which the Supreme Council would be made to sit as a matter of course at Calcutta would be exceedingly injurious to the interests of India. If a peripatetic or Simla-abiding Council be what his Lordship aims at, it will be one which Indian public opinion will not support, for the simple reason that the Councils of the Empire ought to be held in its metropolis. Lord Northbrook was, however, of opinion that the electoral system, as recommended by Mr. Bradlaugh, was entirely unsuited to the present conditions of the country. Representatives elected in such a manner might in his opinion be a serious political danger.

In this he was seconded by Lord Cross who asserted that no man in his senses would ever think of giving India under present circumstances a Parliamentary constitution such as the English. What man in his senses ever asked for such a gift has not, however, been explained and will continue a mystery. So far as we have been able to guage public opinion in the matter in our country, what is asked for at present is only a due recognition of the principle, and representation on however small a scale will be cordially welcome. If the first experiment succeeds, demand for higher privilege will of course be made. But immediate transfer of St. Stephen from the shores of the Thames to those of the Hooghly has not as yet been dreamed of by the most sanguine of Congress-wallahs. Lord Kimberley justly feared that the Bill, by not providing some ways for the creation of a representative system would not satisfy legitimate aspirations. Lord Salisbury, however, as reported before, urged that the elective principle was not an Eastern idea, and did not fit Eastern traditions or Eastern minds. "Another difficulty is," said his Lordship, "that if you want to have the elective principle of Government the first thing you must find is a constituency which is just what at present we are entirely without.

We have been offered as a constituency for the representation of the warlike races of the Punjab and the aristocratic people of Rajputana and the vast population of ryots spread over the whole of India, a body elected only for the purpose of making streets. I do not think that those urban representatives are fitted for the function of forming a constituency to represent the vast interests we have undertaken to represent." His Lordship's jocosity has probably some reference to our numerous municipalities who are doing admittedly excellent work all over the country; His Lordship forgets or does not know that in these municipalities we have the only form of self-Government recognised by the authorities, and he has to see how they work. If they had proved a failure all demands for further privileges were of course unreasonable; and as it is some of our best men including warlike Punjabis and aristocratic Rajputs are on our municipalities and boards, and they are such as would do honor to any representative assembly in the face of the world. But municipalities will and need not be the only constituencies in hand, for the different Chambers of Commerce, Universities and Associations such as those that have been named in Parliament may afford a convenient recruiting ground. The fate of the Bill, so far as the Upper House is concerned, is now practically sealed and its passage through the Commons will be regarded with the keenest interest.

In the meantime it is very interesting to note that Lord Lansdowne has made a statement in connection with the debate on the Budget which gives though in a rather shadowy manner his Lordship's opinion about the measure just passed by the Lords. When it was given out that the Viceroy was opposed to all recognition of elective principles we made bold to doubt whether such would be his Excellency's mature judgment when he came to know India a little more fully, and His Excellency's utterances in the Council on Friday last shows that we were not wholly mistaken. Speaking very guardedly as he did His Lordship observed:—

'We have again taken advantage of the passing of a small and comparatively unimportant measure affecting the imperial Finances in order to give Hon'ble Members an opportunity of considering and criticising the general financial policy of the Government of India. It will be in the recollection of the Council that when, twelve months ago, a similar opportunity was contrived, I was able to state that, in our opinion, the time had come when the right of discussing the Budget should be secured to the Legislative Council, and when the exercise of that right should no longer depend upon casual facilities such as we have been able to afford this year and last. I stated that this view was shared by Her Majesty's Government, and that the Secretary of State had expressed his concurrence in our proposal that there should be an annual, instead of an occasional, discussion of the Budget in Council. I added that this subject appeared to us, and also to Her Majesty's Government, to be closely connected with another, namely, the propriety of giving to Members of the Legislative Council of the Government of India, under proper saf guards, the right of addressing questions to the Government upon matters of public interest, and I stated that this subject also was engaging our attention and that of the Secretary of State. Since I made this announcement, steps have been taken to make good the assurance which I was then able to give. I was not without hopes that the legislation necessary for the purpose of carrying out these important constitutional changes might have been passed last year, and that we might, erenow, have been engaged in the task of cosidering the regulations under which these newly-acquired rights might be exercised. The Secretary of State was fully prepared to introduce the measure during the Parliamentary Session of 1889. Hon'ble Members, however, are aware of the difficulties which attend Imperial legislation, and cannot have been surprised, even if they were disappointed, to find that the attempt to pass a Councils Bill during the Session of 1889 was abandoned. A Bill is, as Hon'ble Members are aware, now before Parliament. It contains provisions which will be effectual for the purpose of redeeming the pledges given last year, and I earnestly trust that it may become law before the Session terminates. This is, I need not say, not a proper occasion for discussing the other provisions of the Bill, with which Hon'ble Members are no doubt familiar—provisions which affect the composition of this, and of the Provincial Legislative Councils. I venture, however, to express my hope that too much credence will not be attached to the wholly unauthorized rumours, which are circulated from time to time, in regard to the attitude of the present Government of India towards the most important constitutional question. For the opinions expressed by us in the correspondence which the Secretary of State has thought proper to lay before Parliament we accept the fullest responsibility. *For other opinions, confidently attributed to us, but not, so far as I am aware, disclosed in any statement of our views, official or unofficial, which has been given to the public, we disclaim all responsibility.* I will only add that I earnestly trust that even those who would themselves desire to see a scheme more ambitious and far-reaching than that of the Secretary of State, adopted by the Government of India and by Her Majesty's Government, will not, for that reason, allow themselves to be led to disparage unjustly the measure which has lately been passed by the House of Lords—a measure which I honestly believe marks one of the greatest advances which has been made for many years past in the direction of a liberal reform of our institutions."

The portion italicised by us would go a great way in making one think that Lord Lansdowne's Government upon a more careful consideration of the situation would not be prepared to oppose the introduction of elective principles in the Councils Bill should the Commons see their way of granting them. We have reasons to hope that its career in the Lower House will be more prosperous than in the Upper, and we shall then agree with Lord Lansdowne that the measure marks one of the greatest advances which has been made for many years past in the direction of a liberal reform of our institutions.

THE VIZIANAGRAM LABORATORY.

As announced in our last issue His Excellency the Viceroy laid the foundation-stone of the Laboratory of the Science Association, on Thursday evening, in the presence of a large and influential gathering of Native and European gentlemen. The Secretary of the Association, it will be remembered, made a strong appeal, not long ago, in aid of funds for permanent professorships and a laboratory, where not only the instruments and apparatus and other materials may be safely and conveniently located, but actual researches in physics and chemistry might be carried on. Of the two the latter was the more pressing one, without which research in any branch of science is difficult to be carried on. To allow the only institution of its kind in the land to languish for want of necessary funds to build a suitable laboratory was certainly a very great reproach to the country. It reflects no small credit upon the donor to whose princely liberality the country will owe this laboratory, that he has come with his ever open purse to the rescue. The Maharaja of Vizianagram, who with his wonted generosity had subscribed half the cost of the laboratory some time back, offered to bear the entire cost of the building when His Highness came to know that the work had no other chance of being taken in hand. We are, therefore, highly gratified to see the Laboratory named after its munificent donor. In the name of the community we tender our cordial thanks to His Highness the Maharaja and cannot but echo the sentiments of His Excellency Lord Lansdowne when he said that 'these acts of true princely munificence reflect great credit not only upon the distinguished men who perform them, but upon the order to which they belong, and to which their conduct affords so bright an example.'

But, the laboratory is not all that was wanted. Lord Ripon at the time of laying the foundation-stone of the lecture hall in 1884, had insisted first, on the necessity of a laboratory, secondly on the necessity of maintaining instruments and appliances up to date, and lastly, the necessity of maintaining paid professorships. The Secretary of the Association in his appeal brought the fact prominently before the public that the work hitherto done in this direction has been entirely a labour of love, which for obvious reasons can only be of a temporary character. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor very justly remarked that 'this condition of affairs carried with it certain disadvantages in that it taught people to depend upon others instead of depending upon themselves.' He also thought the Secretary was justified in asking His Excellency's help towards obtaining for the Association a well-stocked laboratory and paid professorships. We trust that subscriptions also will be forthcoming to supply these two great wants. Babu Kally Kissen Tagore's munificent donation of Rs. 25,000 has luckily enabled the Association to purchase the instruments now in its possession and to go on with the lectures. But these instruments are now over a decade old. Many new and improved instruments have been invented which the Association ought to bring out in order to keep pace with the progress made in more favored countries. More help is necessary, and we are exceedingly pleased to see His Excellency espousing the cause of Science. In his address His Lordship said:—"It was my intention to offer you a small contribution for the Building Fund, and I shall be glad to transfer it for the purpose indicated." Let us hope that the noble example of the Viceroy will soon be followed by our countrymen, and in another year we shall be able to see some at least of the more pressing wants supplied. We hear that the Maharaja of Bettiah proposes to give the handsome donation of Rs. 4,000 towards the accomplishment of the object.

There is none to deny the supreme importance of scientific training. It is the indispensible handmaid, in one or other of its branches, of all manufactures, and of many arts and professions. It makes, so to speak, the difference between 'eyes and no eyes.' To use an illustration of Professor Huxley's, "the uninstructed person passes through life as through a gallery filled with wonderful works of art, nine-tenths of which have their faces turned to the wall. Teach him something of natural history, and you place in his hands a catalogue of those which are most worth turning round." The great value of scientific training is that it enforces accurate observation and encourages the testing by reason and experiment of every belief submitted to the mind. In these days of progress and civilisation, of arts and literature, the supreme importance of such an institution in our midst was very powerfully pointed out by His Excellency in the following words:—

With regard to the arts, we shall probably, all of us, hold that in these days they depend more and more upon the assistance which science is able to give them. Every year the competition between the different nations of the earth becomes more fierce. A market is won to-day and lost to-morrow by some slight saving in the cost of production, or by turning to account some product which until now has been flung upon the waste heap. Only those industries can survive which make the most of the material resources at their command, and which leave nothing to chance. Some of us may regret that this should be so, and may believe that the arts stood a better chance of arriving at true artistic excellence in ages when the pressure was less severe, and when work was done in a more leisurely and thoughtful fashion. But looking at the question from a material point of view, it is no use to dispute the facts of the case, or to deny that its greatest artistic and industrial triumphs have been won. It is therefore no exaggeration to say that the community, as a whole, will have an interest in the researches which will be prosecuted here. We shall however, I think, be justified in saying that even if we leave out of sight for a moment the results which are likely to accrue from the application of science to the arts, an institution of this kind confers an immense benefit upon the youth of the country by offering to them facilities for continuing their studies after they have completed their course at the College or University.

We have watched with keen interest the proceedings of the institution from the very day when its prospectus appeared in our columns in 1870, and we are glad to see it in the position it has attained. It is now twenty years that the desirability of a National Institution for the Cultivation of the Sciences by the natives of India was urged upon our countrymen—the very time when similar

appeals were being made for the teaching of science in the schools of Great Britain. It took six years of persistent agitation to secure a subscription of about 50,000 rupees for the establishment of an institution. The project was fortunate enough to attract the favorable attention of the then Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Richard Temple, and his advocacy gave a powerful impetus towards its realization for in a short time the subscriptions rose to Rs. 80,000, and the Association was established and formally opened. For about eight years the same building served as lecture hall, laboratory, office, library and every thing besides. The audience at the lectures increasing, the lecture-hall was found insufficient. In spite of strong opposition based upon want of funds, it was resolved to build a suitable lecture hall, and a subscription list was opened, and events justified the expectations of the well-wishers of the Association. Liberal donations came in, and there was no necessity to touch the funded capital. The foundation-stone of the lecture hall was laid by the then Viceroy, Lord Ripon. It took two years to complete the hall, and it was formally opened by the same Viceroy on the 12th March 1884. But while lectures could be safely delivered in the new lecture-hall, the old building became more unsafe for the instruments and the office, and it was thought accessary to construct a separate building for the instruments. Years and years passed away but the object could not be carried out for want of funds. And now, that it has been gained by the liberal donation of His Highness the Maharaja of Vizianagram, we call upon our noble and wealthy citizens and fellow-countrymen to extend their helping hands towards the furtherance of the other objects in view. We hope and trust the country will soon awken to the importance of the Association, and will not permit it to languish from want of the necessary support. We are not in want of liberal donors amongst us. We have already mentioned the magnificent donation of Babu Kally Kissen Tagore. The Association is also in receipt of handsome annual subscriptions from Maharaja Bahadur Sir JotendroMohun Tagore and Raja Peary Mohun Mukerjee. There are many other noblemen and Princes blessed with abundance of wealth for whom it is not a very hard task to supply the other wants. Dr. Sircar has worked hard and unremittingly for twenty years. Let our countrymen come forward with the necessary aid in accomplishment of his noble and self-imposed task.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

His Excellency the Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne left the Presidency *en route* to Simla yesterday at 6 P. M. The departure was private. His Excellency will visit Saharanpur, Dehra, Mussurie, and Chuckrata, and arrive at Simla about the end of April. The party accompanying His Excellency on tour are Her Excellency the Marchioness of Lansdowne, Colonel J. C. Ardagh, C.B., Private Secretary, Surgeon-Major E. H. Fenn, Surgeon to the Viceroy, Captain H. A. Pakenham, A.D.C., Captain G. C. Lister, A.D.C., and Mr. F. W. Latimer. Lord William Beresford will be with His Excellency till the 8th April only.

Lady Bayley and Miss Farquharson leave Calcutta on April 17th for England.

It is said to be probable. that General Sir Frederick Roberts may not accept an extension of office in India. The *Standard* states that a year's extension will be offered.

Mr. Stanley has finished his book on his travels. It is in two volumes. Emin goes to Egypt next week, but will not go to Europe.

We are informed that with a view to maintain the dignity of an Indian nobleman in a manner befitting the position, and in accordance with Oriental ideas and customs, Maharajah Bahadur Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore, K. C. S. I., will in future, on suitable occasions, be attended by outriders. This has been decided, we believe, at the request of the Government, for the knightly Maharaja's own modesty would not allow such a display. There is no reason why others who are not territorial chiefs should have this honor while the premier noble of Lower Bengal should be denied it. We are glad to see that the Government has made this reparation in time.

There was a prize meeting of the Calcutta Volunteers at the Eden Gardens on Saturday when His Excellency, the Honorary Colonel, inspected and addressed the Corps. Lady Lansdowne gave away the prizes. The Volunteer Barracks to the north of the gardens have been almost completed to which His Excellency paid a visit at the conclusion of ceremony.

Mr. Lee, the Chairman-elect is already on the Calcutta Municipal Commission but only in a somewhat humble (*sic* elevated) position. He has been appointed a Commissioner in the place of Dr. O'Brien resigned and is evidently supposed to be capable of picking up his Municipal alphabet in a fortnight of apprentice-ship. But that cannot be the whole object, for Sir Henry L. Harrison plays his chess well. Disgusted as he is with the chairmanship he will be restless if he has no finger in the Municipal pie so long as he is in town. When, therefore, he vacates the chair in Mr. Lee's favour, he will have Mr. Lee's place on the Commission,—a move well calculated to check-mate those that are exultingly awaiting his retreat. Mr. Lee only "keeps" the place for Sir Henry we suppose, in our boy's parlance, for it would hardly do to have a *pucca* man to fill the vacancy caused by Dr. O'Brien's resignation. Sir Henry Harrison will join his new appointment at the Board of Revenue on the 15th of April.

The Bill to amend the Excise Act of 1881 and the Bengal Excise Act of 1878 was passed in the Viceroy's Council on Friday with the following sections added thereto :—

Drawback of Excise-duty on Export of Malt Liquor. The provisions of Section 150 of the Sea Customs Act, 1878, with respect to the allowance of a drawback of excise-duty paid on spirits manufactured in British India and exported to a foreign port, and with respect to the regulation of the drawback by the quantity of such spirit, shall apply also, so far as they can be made applicable, to fermented liquor made in British India from malt and so exported, and to the drawback of the excise-duty paid on such liquor.

Our Corporators have "unanim ously" allowed their Health Officer leave for five weeks from the 17th April. Dr. Macleod has kindly promised to do any urgent work that may arise and the Assistant Health Officer will be left to do the rest. The arrangement is admirable and shows that a "whole time" officer on high pay is an unnecessary luxury. We dare say by the time that Dr. Simpson comes to leave us cholera, small-pox and Influenza which by the way has broken out here in all its rigour will have completely disappeared from the town. The only prophylactic used by the Health Department in the meantime, so far as we can see, is persistent street-watering with pitwater.

Mr. Swinhoe would not submit to the departing Chairman's sweet ways. The Budget of the Calcutta Municipality seems to have been passed without the Budget Committee having had an opportunity of even seeing the balance-sheet, and when Mr. Swinhoe in last Thursday's meeting protested against the procedure and said he would go to the Lieutenant-Governor about it he was called to order and left the meeting. Sir Henry L. Harrison does not see the slightest necessity for these inconvenient and troublesome committees and has more than once spoken his mind plainly about them. Why did not the autocrat take care in his own Act to uproot these standing obstructions and make scandals of this description impossible ?

Babu Annada Prasad Banerjee, Senior Government Pleader of the Appellate Side, High Court, retires at the end of the month and his mantles have worthily fallen on the shoulders of Babu Hem Chandra Banerjee. Of Babu Hem Chandra's legal acquirements and character it is impossible to speak too highly and if it has not been given him to fill a higher post still than is now bestowed on him, it was partly because his retiring nature did not allow him to occupy the role of a pushing man and partly because his health of late has not been very good. To have selected a better successor for the revered head of the native Bar would be a task difficult of accomplishment and we are sure that the appointment will give great public satisfaction.

In the House of Commons a debate took place last week on the Bill for the Purchase of the South Indian Railway. Mr. Arthur O'Connor opposed the purchase, and alleged that it was a job, and that the price asked was far above the net value, and he, therefore, demanded that the contract be submitted to the House. Sir James Fergusson, on behalf of Sir John Gorst, denied that the purchase was a job, and said that it would be the means of Government saving thirty-six thousand pounds yearly on the present loss by guaranteed interest. Sir John Lubbock spoke in favour of leaving Indian Railways open to general competition. The debate was adjourned till to-day.

A cyclone with deluges of rain and hail has been reported to have occurred at Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky. Many villages have been demolished with enormous damage to property in the adjacent districts. Three thousand buildings at Louisville have been wrecked and telegraphs demolished. It is believed that 300 persons have been killed. The bodies are heaped up in the streets. The ruins took fire in seven places. The public Hall has been wrecked, and a hundred occupants perished. It is estimated that probably fifteen hundred lives were lost as the result of the cyclone. Several towns are isolated and it is feared totally wrecked. The town of Bowling Green is reported to be in ruins. Heavy floods have taken place on the Mississippi, and the lowlands there are doomed. Boats are actively employed in rescuing the inhabitants.

In the Commons the Tithes Bill has passed its second reading by a majority of 125 votes.

The Protocol of the Labour Conference was signed on Saturday last.

Mr. Smith, replying to a question in the House of Commons, declined to produce Lord Dufferin's minute, dated 6th November 1888, because it is said to be inexpedient and prejudical to the public service.

Bombay amply made up for its past defects and derelictions in the matter of the reception of Prince Albert Victor and made a really brave show throughout the whole of the week. The usual ceremonials were held on his Royal Highness's arrival from Junagad by sea and his first public appearance was on Monday afternoon at the People's Fair. In the evening there was an official dinner followed by a reception. On Tuesday afternoon His Royal Highness laid the foundation-stone of the new Leper Asylum which is to be built at the cost of Sir Dinshaw Petit. Wednesday was observed as a public holiday. The Prince was to have attended a musical entertainment and a Conversazione at the School of Arts, but owing to a temporary illness did not go out at night though there were splendid illuminations and fireworks. The Prince fortunately recovered from his indisposition on the following day and attended the unveiling of the bust of the Queen-Empress by Lady Reay at the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute built by the Thakore of Bhownagar. The Prince then drove to the Horse, Cattle, and Flower Show at the Victoria Gardens.

The Byculla club gave His Royal Highness a dinner on Thursday at which the Prince "broke through reserve" and eloquently observed :—

'Wherever I have been in India men in every walk in life, all hard worked, and with little leisure for pageants, have welcomed me with the lavishness and grace of the East and sincerity and go of the West. The merchants of India have not grudged their golden hours, nor Civil and Military Officers their scanty leisure time, to make me feel at home in this strange great country, and I must now, on the eve of my leaving India, say how touched and delighted I am, and how the generous hospitality of my fellow-countrymen will always linger in memory. It is all reflected glory: it is your patriotic love for the good Queen-Empress, and your attachment to my father which has won for me this splendid and right royal welcome. But, young as I am, I am old enough to know how sincere and how valuable to the Empire are the sentiments which find their expression in a graceful entertainment such as this dinner to-night. I shall never forget that India is the pleasant and happy country she is by reason of the enterprise of her merchants, the honour of her Civil Servants, and devotion of her soldiers.'

THE Prince bade our shores good-bye on Friday when the Bombay Municipality presented His Royal Highness with a farewell address, His Royal Highness's reply was inspired with so genuine feelings of kindliness towards the Indian Empire that we deeply regret that we cannot quote it at length. We for our part bid the Prince a regretful good-bye and trust that the scenes he has passed through during the short time he had been in our midst will remain engraved in his memory for all time to come; that more than anything else will enable and induce him to take a kindly interest in our affairs, and if in our future ruler we have succeeded in creating such an interest, the lavish expenditure that has necessarily attended His Royal Highness's Indian tour will not have been in vain. He has seen a loyal, law-abiding and contented people whose fates can be bettered only by slight efforts and whenever such efforts are made it will be a source of great comfort and relief to us that no less than four of Her Majesty's illustrous family will be there to take our part. We wish the Prince a pleasant voyage and a long, happy and prosperous career.

OUR Corporators will soon proceed to elect their General Committee. They do so every year, but the principle upon which the thing is managed is difficult to understand from the outside. Why should ornamental no-bodies with pretended want of leisure be allowed to crowd the list while men who would take genuine and practical interest in the every day work of the Commission be kept out? Great names are no desiderata where solid work has to be done round the Committee table and we trust to see infusion of new blood that will make the body vigorous and capable of discharging its many-sided duties to the tax-payers.

COUNT HERBERT BISMARCK persisting in resigning, the Emperor has accepted his resignation, and appointed Consul-General Von Alvensleven, German Minister at Brussels, Foreign Secretary in his place. Prince Bismarck held a long farewell audience on Wednesday, and was immensely cheered in the streets. The Prince had at first refused to accept the Dukedom offered to him by the Emperor but subsequently accepted it only as his second title. A violent rupture between the Emperor William and Prince Bismarck is said to have preceded the retirement of the latter from office and a bitter controversy is going on in the German press relative thereto. It is stated that the Emperor insisted on being informed of all his dealings with the party leaders. The Chancellor, however, declined to be controlled by the Emperor in such matters, and therefore resigned. The Emperor William has conveyed to the Emperor Francis Joseph his positive assurance that Chancellor Von Caprivi will preserve the alliance existing between Germany, Austria and Italy.

THE Rev. Mr. Whitely was consecrated Bishop of Chota Nagpore at Ranchi on Sunday before last. The Lord Bishops of Calcutta, Madras, Bombay and the Punjab and other church dignitaries were present at the consecration.

LADY LANSDOWNE laid the foundation-stone of the Sham Churn Law Eye Hospital on Monday last at the Medical College compound. The ceremony was attended with great *eclat* and the gathering was worthy of the occasion. Dr. Coates in asking Her Excellency to perform the ceremony gave a succinct and interesting sketch of the history of hospitals in our city, and enumerated the many generous gifts of those preceding the large-minded donor in the field of liberality to the sick poor. Dr. Coates concluded that Babu Sham Churn Law, having suffered from a serious disease himself, made this handsome donation by way of a thanks-offering for the good of the sick poor, and Dr. Sanders who was consulted advised that his department should be the one benefited. He has, therefore, placed Rs. 60,000, in the Government treasury for the building of the hospital which is to bear his name—the sole condition of his liberality. Babu Sham Churn Law in thanking Lady Lansdowne said:—

'The occasion that has brought us together, as you all know, is to witness the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of a small building, which is to serve as an Eye-Hospital, the want of which was long felt, and which my humble means enabled me to provide for the benefit of my fellow-subjects, so far as its limited accommodation would permit.

It is a matter of very great pleasure to me that Her Excellency, who takes such a lively interest in all that concerns the welfare of the people, has been so kind as to be present; and I must confess that this pleasure is very much heightened by Her Excellency graciously consenting to take an important part in this day's proceedings, and for this I have to offer her my sincere thanks.

Before the foundation is laid, I should mention that the ground on which the hospital is to stand is a gift from Government, and the Public Works Department has been entrusted with its construction, according to the plan laid before you, through the kindness of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, to whom my best thanks are due. I am, however, sorry His Honor could not be present, owing to his departure from the Presidency for State purposes. The hospital will have room, for about 50 patients, with a dispensing hall and two rooms foo paying patients, and with other accessories and conveniences necessary for the proper treatment of eye-diseases, and it is to be maintained as hitherto in another place by Government.

Now, without detaining you any longer, I beg respectfully to request Her Excellency to lay the foundation-stone; and in doing so I hope and trust that the hospital commenced under such distinguished auspices may prove beneficial to the inhabitants of the country.

In conclusion, I have to thank Drs. Hilson, Coates, and Sanders for the interest they have shown in the matter, and the ladies and gentlemen who have kindly come to witness the ceremony.'

A jar containing the current coins of the realm, specially struck for the occasion, together with a copy of each of the day's issue of the *Englishman Hindoo Patriot, Indian Mirror, Bangabasi* and *Suprabhat* and a plan of the building were next placed under the stone which was "well and truly laid" with a beautiful silver trowel that was presented to the noble mason. Sir Charles Elliott followed with a few graceful words of commendation and said that although Calcutta did not at present stand in the matter of medical charity at the head of all the cities of India, he had little doubt that if the example of Babu Sham Churn Law was duly followed, Calcutta would soon take the place which it was justified in taking as the capital of India. We feel thankful to Sir Charles Elliott for the kind words spoken about the generous donor. Dr. Coates in his long history of our medical charities strangely enough forgot to commend Babu Sham Churn Law's liberality, though that made it possible for Calcutta to have a regular Opthalmic hospital. We are glad all the same, however, that we are to have the hospital.

THE Ampa left Calcutta for Lasha on Saturday last after being feted and made much of in all possible manners for a couple of weeks as a guest of the Bengal Government. Besides the public visits, His Excellency had several private interviews with the Viceroy and it is to be hoped that the Tibet frontier and trades questions are set at rest for some time at all events till a more restless policy dictates a change.

THE West End Watch Company, who, as will be seen from an advertisement elsewhere, have opened a branch here, are doing good work. Their stock is full, and one requiring a steady and handsome watch can have it at a comparatively cheap price. Their solid leather watch-protector case will be a boon to many.

BABU RASIK LAL GHOSE, has published an useful little pamphlet on the chemistry of food which enunciates principles of vegetarianism with force. Western and Eastern philosophy have been largely drawn upon in support of the author's position and he handles his subject with commendable lucidity.

Correspondence.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Madras, 28th March 1890,

The Moore-Norton case, after an eventful career, has concluded. As you might have already been aware the Judge Mr. Justice Shephard has given Mr. Moore damages of Rs. 100 and costs. Opinions may differ regarding the decision. I merely present to your readers the common sense, and not the legal, point of view. First of all it is the imprudence of Mr. Bourne, the professor of Biology of the Presidency College, that is responsible for the whole unpleasantness. His first fault lay in circulating a rumour which had been mentioned to him in the course of a strictly private conversation and that at the dinner table. Mr. Bourne has reciprocated the princely hospitality of Mr. Norton in an admirable way, *viz.* by injuring the reputation of his host by publishing orally what Mr. Norton holds he never said. The second blunder of Mr. Bourne was the awful way in which he contradicted himself in the witness-box. There is absolutely no evidence besides that of Mr. Bourne; and he himself has a most confused idea of the exact words spoken. *Pray, tell me how many of us would be safe if all that we speak to a guest in a merely private dinner is to take wings and drag us before a tribunal of justice. Secondly, there is the conduct of the President of the Municipality. The first thing you expect of a gentleman is that he should when he learns that some body has talked ill of him, to straight-way march to him or write to him on it and ask him whether if he had been indiscreet, he would make honorable amends by an unreserved apology.* But in this case Col. Moore after several days after the alleged occurrence of the event goes straight to the High Court without giving an opportunity to Mr. Norton to explain himself out of court. The third point is that according to Mr. Moore himself, he was not in friendly terms with Mr. Norton. He disliked him because he was a correspondent of the *Pioneer* in Sir Grant-Duff's regime, he quarrelled with him because he had not the equanimity to allow Mr. Norton and the ladies who accompanied him to have a bottle of champagne for themselves in a dinner at the *Mount*. As a Municipal Commissioner who tried to discharge his duty to the best of his conscience Mr. Norton had to say many things unpalatable to Col. Moore. Therefore that Military officer was in a mood to believe all that was said against his political opponent and rushed to the court. A bird whispers into my ears: "Oh no, don't blame Col. Moore. The incident may be of the most trivial kind. But Mr. Norton is a marked man. He has taken to popular preaching. He attacks authority whenever there is a loop-hole. He is master of satire, an able speaker and writer, and will the authorities sit quiet when they can by hook or crook lower him in public estimation?" This is plausible. But how far is true, every one must judge for himself. But it is probable that the party that appreciate the excellent intentions of Mr. Norton, his public spirit and his daring onslaught on chickenery, injustice and illiberality will testify to their appreciation of Mr. Norton by subscribing among themselves the nominal damages, and that the name of Mr. Norton will be hereafter far more endearing to young India than it ever was. His straight forwardness and hearty geniality of temper act as a charm on his audience.

In an evil hour the Governor of Madras resolved to build a Military Hospital on the Marina, midway between the Presidency College and the Public Works Office. The Marina is the one boast of Madras peculiar to it. Those of my Bengali friends who have had the pleasure of visiting Madras must remember how much they enjoyed a stroll in the evening from one end of the beach to the other, meeting several genial faces of ladies and gentlemen, and how the public buildings, the Senate House, the Presidency College add glory to the Marina and lend beauty to it. The attempted construction in such a spot of a hospital for military patients exasperated the entire public. The *Mail* began the crusade. It warned the Governor the risk he ran of drawing upon his head the curses of hundreds of ladies and gentlemen by exhibiting to them every evening the agonies of death and sick men of sorts. The *Hindu* calmly followed suit and showed how the Presidency College was jeopardized, by its students being deprived of their tiffin-rooms and play-ground owing to the location of the hospital and how in times of epidemics the health of the students may be endangered. The *Mail* once more recalled to the public mind how the constant sight of sickness may make one sick of himself. The local *Times* created a sensation by saying in so many words that according to *Truth* Lord Connemara was going home on short leave to conduct the divorce suit between himself and his wife and that before leaving the shores of Madras, His Excellency desired to commemorate his name by laying the foundation-stone of the hospital. Mr. Gantz, the President of the Eurasian Association, a prominent Congress-wallah adopted strenuous measures to convene a Sheriff's meeting to enter a protest which will make itself heard in the Council Chamber of Fort St. George. Fifty-two respectable citizens of all nationalities had put down their names in the requisition. At least, Lord Connemara dignifiedly retraced his steps and the President of the Municipality announced to the public that the Governor had abandoned the proposal. Lord Connemara has behaved as a wise ruler and deserves praise for it.

RAJA SIR MADHAVA RAO THROWN OVERBOARD. In the past weeks were laid firm the foundations of the decay of the reputation of this venerable statesman. Here-after he will be known as a mere visionary, a victim to the ravages of dotage, an honored name crawling on all foods in its second childhood. The Rajah displayed unnecessary acrimony in actively running counter to the cherished aspirations of the patriotic countrymen. The Rajah forgot what opinions he promulgated in public two short years ago. In the Congress of 1887 he seconded the resolution on the reform of Legislative Councils on the elective principle, as the deliberate outcome of his "profound conviction,' exhorted the graduates to become patriots and politicians in his Convocation address of 1885; but in the year of grace, 1890, when his teachings had a chance of bearing fruit, when Lords Ripon and Northbrook were fighting for the elective principle in the House of Lords, Raja Sir Madhava Rao resorts to the *Madras Mail* to openly ridicule Messrs A. O. Hume and Surendranath Bannerjee, admonishes the Congress to shut its shop and beseeches the British Government not to grant the elective principles. Good God, what inconsistency and folly this! But Madras is too far ahead of Raja Sir Madhava Rao. The *Hindu*, the most respectable daily Native paper in this part of India, promptly proved to demonstration the inconsistency of the Rajah, stated in so many words that the Congress no longer stood in need of such step-motherly support and concluded with a statement that the Rajah having always exercised absolute power in Native States could never appreciate the value of popular enfranchisement in however restricted a form. A Hindu gentleman of eminence attacks the Rajah ferociously in the leading columns of the *Mail*. The gap is widening every day and he will be a bold prophet who can foreshadow whether the Rajah would again be restored to the conspicuous eminence he till lately enjoyed in the estimation of his countrymen.

THE HINDU TRACT SOCIETY.—This is an unique institution. I doubt whether you have a similar institution in Bengal. Its mission is four-fold. It prevents conversion to Christianity. It tries to enlighten the popular mind on the excellences of Hinduism and whenever necessary exposes the weak points of other rival alien religions. It tries to undo the work of the Missionary by persuading, by the force of arguments, Hindus converted to Christianity to again become Hindus in religion, and undertakes to help those who are inclined to abandon Christianity. It distributes and publishes thousands of tracts in English and all the Vernaculars bearing on religion and technical and industrial knowledge. It has preachers who preach to the masses every evening on Hindu religion. In other words, it has been formed on the lines of English Missionary societies. It is not three years old, but is a very vigorous infant that makes considerable noise. Yesterday it celebrated its second anniversary. The sight was a grand one. It recalled assemblies of yore. A Brahmin Sanyasi presided. Brahmin Pandits, and non-Brahmin scholars addressed the assembly eloquently. Subscriptions were also collected. Last year, it transpires, it published and distributed gratis nearly two lacs of tracts. That is a work which deserves commendation. The Society also serves an excellent purpose in bringing together the Brahmin and the non-Brahmin, and the different sections of each caste and forcibly reminding them that though there may be differences among themselves they must sink them all when Christianity and modern atheism threaten the very fabric of Hinduism. It also reminds us all that disunion in religion was the cause of our political and social downfall. It contributes to convince the un English educated and the orthodox that bigotry is a vice and toleration is indispensable if Hinduism is ever to hold its own as opposed to Christianity. The society has branches in several towns and some of the chief workers are men of vast research and learning. Mr. Siva Sankara Pandiyagi, the founder of the Theological High School, is the president of the Society and works with admirable vigor.

THE WEATHER. The weather is extremely hot and the crops have failed inseveral parts. Rice, the chief staple article of food, is very dear and distress, if not famine, is apprehended in certain districts.

Extract.

RAJA DURGA CHURN LAW'S SPEECHES

RAILWAY BILL.

IN December 1888, when the Railway Bill was referred to a Select Committee, I took occasion to urge upon the attention of this Hon'ble Council the great necessity that existed for providing retiring accommodation for 3rd class passengers, who formed the bulk of the passenger traffic of Railways, and from whom so large a revenue was derived. It was nothing but fair that some consideration should be shown to them in this respect. Judging from the deliberations of the Select Committee such as have come to my notice, it appears that the question was considered, but what has been the result? The only provision that has been made is a reserved compartment for females with a closet in each train running for a distance exceeding 50 miles. This is no doubt some concession for which the native community cannot but be grateful; but what about the men? If regular latrines were found impracticable, could not a similar provision be made for them, at all events experimentally? It would then have been something; at any rate it would at least have shown that the legislature was not unmindful of the comfort and convenience of that class of men who are not able to make their wants and feelings known to the governing authorities.

It has often been said that the comfort and accommodation asked for are not supplied either in Europe or America; but I submit that the conditions of life being different, no comparison could be instituted between them and this country.

Representations have been made from various parts of the country pointing out the discomfort and inconvenience experienced by 3rd class passengers. I would take the liberty of quoting here the opinions expressed on the subject:

The District Magistrate of Bellary in the Madras Presidency thinks that "every carriage attached to a through train ought to contain a place for the relief of natural wants."

Mr. Tagore, the Judge of a certain district in the Bombay Presidency, observes:—"The great discomfort from which the lower class passengers suffer is the want of latrine accommodation in their carriages."

Sir Dinshaw Maneckjee Petit, also of Bombay, the late member of this Hon'ble Council, remarks:—"In carriages of some Railway companies there is no latrine arrangement at all for these poor people, ... and great inconvenience is felt by passengers in that respect."

Mr. J. O. Porter, Magistrate of Shahjehanpore in the N. W. Provinces, says:—"I should have liked to have seen provisions made for latrine accommodation for third class carriages . . . . . no concession would be so popular as this."

The British Indian Association speaking of the general complaint about the want of latrine accommodation for lower class passengers points out that—"if it be found impracticable to have such accommodation in each carriage or compartment, American carriages may more largely be introduced, and they may be so arranged as to allow communication with each other. An entire carriage could be set apart for retiring purposes of male passengers."

The opinion of the Punjab Government is very emphatic in this matter. Speaking of the necessity of having latrine accommodation in Railway carriages, the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab remarks that in the opinion of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor "the Government should have power either to make rules in these matters, or to authoritatively require the Railway administration to make rules which would be satisfactory to Government. The reason for this suggestion is that it is already known that discontent is sometimes expressed in regard to these matters, and it seems to the Lieutenant-Governor that as time goes on the natives having occasion to use the Railway may wish for more security for their better accommodation in those respects. In a country like England matters of this sort may well be left to private enterprise, and the pressure of public opinion. But the case is otherwise in India, where natives going on long journeys must practically of necessity use certain lines of Rail, and where they would naturally look to the Government to help them, if they felt they stood in need of assistance."

It will be seen from the remarks quoted above that the necessity for having latrine accommodation in third class carriages is widely felt, and it will be a matter of extreme disappointment to the millions who travel by Rail, but who, I repeat, have not the power to make their wants and wishes known to the Legislature, if no arrangement to remove their grievance is made.

It has been said that the practical difficulties of meeting the want are insuperable. That there are difficulties does not admit of a question. But I submit that contrivances could be made to overcome them. I may be permitted here to mention that the Managing Committee of the Bhavnagar-Gondal-Junagurh-Porebundar Railway offered in 1888 for competition a prize for the best design and working model for latrines for third class carriages of Metre-gauge Railways, which should get over "the serious sanitary and hygienic objections that are believed by many to exist to extension of the present system in common use in India for upper class carriages." The Consulting Engineer of the Government of India and the Director General of Railways acted as judges. In discussing the merits of the designs sent to them they considered "that the requirements of the case would best be met by a combination of the good features of the several designs." They gave it also as their opinion that "if conveniences in the train are considered necessary for both males and females, we suggest that the third class carriages might be arranged on the through passage system with end-doors, and one latrine carriage provided at the end of the train. The latrine carriage could be in charge of a travelling sweeper, and the excreta could be retained in the carriage to be removed and deposited at fixed stations *en route*."

This opinion coming as it does from Railway Engineers of such high authority shows that

it is not impracticable to make a design by which sanitary and hygienic objections could be removed. If then the difficulties which were apprehended could be removed, I would venture to suggest that some provision should be made to supply the want felt by the people.

Notwithstanding what has fallen from the Hon'ble member in charge of the Bill, the complaints on this head, I am bound to say are loud and numerous.

I hope the Government, in the interests of the millions for whom I speak, will reserve to themselves the power by which they could grant the concession later on, if it could not be granted at present.

GUARDIANS AND WARDS BILL.

I was a member of the Select Committee which considered the Bill. There were two important points upon which there was cosiderable difference of opinion. A Committee of the Hon'ble Judges of the Calcutta High Court was of opinion that, without compelling a *de facto* guardian in every case to come to the Court for appointment or a declaration of his title, the Bill should be so framed as to make it necessary for guardians of large estates to place themselves under the supervision of the Court. It is clear from this statement that the Committee of the Hon'ble Judges thought that it was not absolutely necessary for a guardian, in the interests of a minor, to resort to the Court in all cases. By not resorting to the Court the guardian is free to act on his own responsibility, without being hampered with the obligation of making references and applications to the Court for orders regarding every small matter, and he is left in a great measure to act on his own discretion. With all deference to the opinion of the Hon'ble Judges, no legal check should, I think, be devised to harass him in the management even of a large estate under his charge. The only way in which he could be made to place himself under the control and supervision of the Court would be to compel him to submit periodical accounts. It is only in the case of dishonest guardians that such a safeguard would be necessary. Provision is made in the Bill to guard against such contingencies. Sections 36 and 37 provide that all guardians and their heirs are liable to the minor for acts done by the guardian, whether appointed and declared or not; and the Bill gives the Court power to remove a guardian for any wrongful acts. These provisions, I submit, are sufficient to protect the interests of minors whenever their guardians act in a dishonest or wrongful way. In the case of honest and conscientious guardians, any interference by the Court with their management would only tend to cripple their usefulness. These *de facto* guardians act as a rule without remuneration, and to harass them with a liability to file accounts would be to dissuade them from taking upon themselves the trust. The consequence would be that in a large number of cases inferior persons of doubtful honesty would be entrusted with the management of these estates, while subjecting them to increased expense. The value of the advantage which a minor's estate often derives from the supervision of a guardian, who would only undertake the trust out of regard to the ward, cannot be overrated. No paid agency could do the work of management so efficiently as he would. He would not accept the trust if he were to be troubled with Court interference; and to prevent him from undertaking the work would be to do a great injury to the minor's estate. Under the circumstances, it would have been injudicious, in my opinion, to frame the Bill in such a way as to compel a *de facto* guardian even of a large estate to place himself under the control and supervision of the Court.

Opinions were also divided as to the expediency of making a provision in the Bill relating to the appointment of guardians in cases in which the interests of minor members of undivided Hindu families are concerned. In undivided Hindu families it is generally, or rather invariably, the next friend of the minor who becomes his guardian. It is either the mother, brother or uncle who undertakes the trust. These persons are particularly interested in the well-being of the estate for the benefit of the minor, and, as a rule, they do their duty to the satisfaction of all parties. It may certainly happen sometimes that such persons may be dishonestly inclined, and in these cases the Court, on satisfactory proof, has the power to compel them to render accounts or to remove them from the management. These remedies, I submit, ought to be sufficient to protect the interests of minors when they are in peril. To put in a stranger as a guardian of a minor in a joint Hindu family would simply be to destroy the family union and thus inflict great injury upon all members of the family. The family is so constituted that, if a foreign element be introduced into it will lead to the destruction of the peace, harmony and happiness of all members thereof. It was for these reasons that section 20 of the original Bill has been omitted, and I am glad it was.

It is my firm belief that the Bill, as revised by the Select Committee, will well protect the interests of minors. There may be individual cases of loss and hardship, but on the whole the advantage, I do not hesitate to say, would far outweigh the disadvantage which may be apprehended.

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Government Notification.

Calcutta Gazette.—*March* 26, 1889.

General,—Mr A A Wace, Magistrate and Collector reported his departure from India, on furlough, on the 7th March 1890.

Mr C B Garrett, District and Sessions Judge, 24-Pergunnahs, is placed temporarily in charge of the Hooghly Sessions Division, in addition to his own duties.

Mr R H Anderson, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Moorshedabad, is appointed to act temporarily as District and Sessions Judge of Hooghly.

Mr A H Collins, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dinagepore, is appointed to act temporarily as District and Sessions Judge of Jessore.

Mr C J S Faulder, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Patna, is appointed to act temporarily as Magistrate and Collector of Durbhunga.

Mr C E Buckland, Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue, is appointed to act as Secretary to the Board of Revenue, with effect from the 11th instant, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr H J S Cotton, or until further orders.

Babu Manick Lal Pal, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on excise work, Purneah, is allowed leave for one week, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the date on which he may avail himself of it.

Babu Dina Nath Chuckerbutty, Sub-Deputy Collector, in charge of the Gya distillery, is allowed furlough for one year, under article 371 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Babu Khudiram Poddar, Sub-Deputy Collector, Moorshedabad is transferred to the district of Rungpore.

Babu Bisseswar Das, Sub-Deputy Collector, is posted to the district of Julpaiguri.

Babu Kali Prosad Chatterjee, Sub-Deputy Collector, on excise duty, Kankora, is transferred to the district of Backergunge.

Mr G A Grierson, C S, reported his departure from India, on furlough, on the afternoon of the 10th instant.

Mr W H Thomson, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Giridih, Hazaribagh, is allowed leave for one month, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Moulvie Mahomed Azhur, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hazaribagh, is appointed temporarily to have charge of the Giridih sub-division of that district.

Babu Gunga Churn Chatterjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Chittagong, is transferred to the Sudder station of the district of Noakhali.

Babu Mohini Mohan Chuckerbutty, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Noakhali, is transferred to the Sudder station of the district of Chittagong.

Captain James Stevenson, Presidency Volunteer Reserve Battalion, is allowed leave of absence for one year with effect from the 14th instant.

Babu Modan Gopal Singh, Sub-Deputy Collector, Godda, Sonthal Pergunnahs, is allowed leave for three weeks, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 1st May 1890.

Judicial Department.—The undermentioned gentlemen are appointed to be Honorary Magistrates of the Kurseong and Nuxalbari Independent Benches in the Darjeeling district, and are vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the 3rd class :—In the Independent Bench at Kurseong.

Mr J S Court, Mr. R R Landale, and Revd R S Wood;

In the Independent Bench at Nuxalbari.

Mr G Grant Gordon, Mr F B Baker, and Mr H T Kerr

Under the authority vested in him by the final clause of section 357 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, Act X of 1882, the Lieutenant-Governor empowers the undermentioned officers to take down evidence in criminal cases in the English language :—Babu Bonomali Paramanic, Sub-Deputy Magistrate, Baraset, 24-Pergunnahs, Babu Jogat Chandra Roy, Sub-Deputy Magistrate, Basirhat, 24-Pergunnahs.

Mr Kedar Nath Roy, Officiating Joint-Magistrate, 24-Pergunnahs, is vested with powers under sections 110, 133 and 260 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

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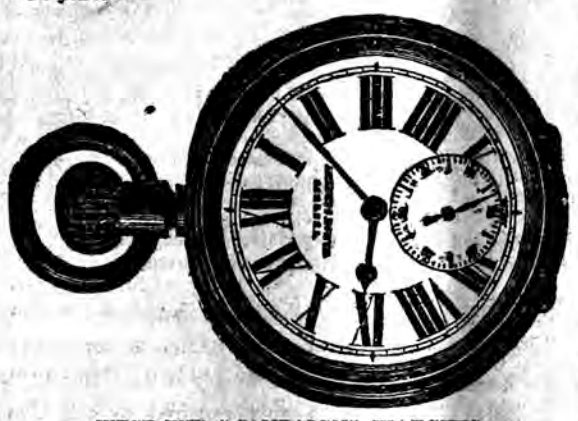

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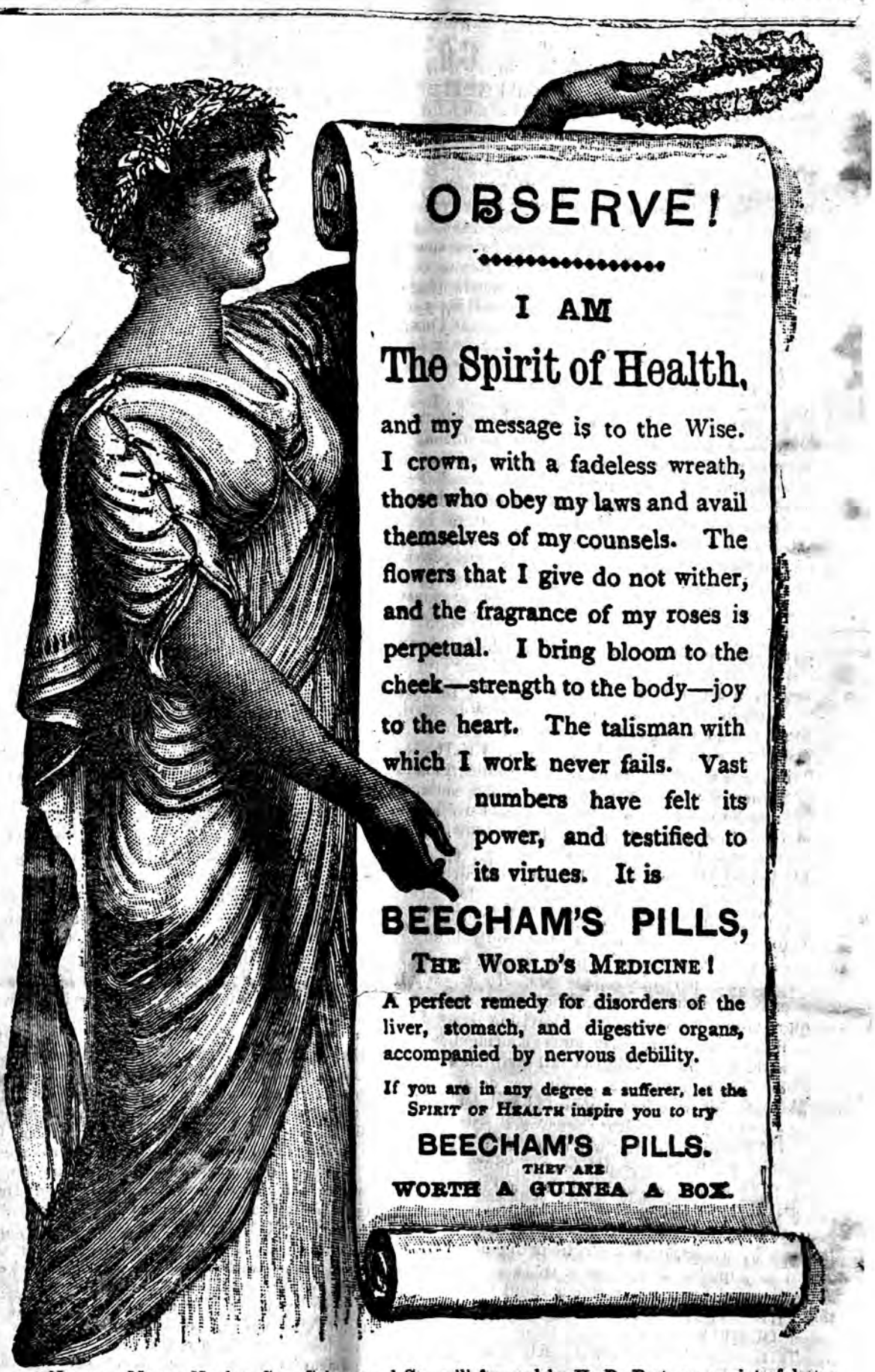
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NOTICE.

Is hereby given to those who have any thing to do with the Bijni Estate in Goalpara that on the 8th March 1890, the Judge of 24 Pergunnahs decided in suit No. 28 of 1888, that on the 10th March 1875, the late Rajah Kumud Narayan Bhup married the plaintiff Rani Abhayswari Debi in the Brahma form, and he married the defendant, Rani Sidheswari, while she was *enceinte*, but her marriage is declared to be valid under the Hindu law. The *Anumatipatra* set up by her is pronounced to be a *false document* and the papers alleged to have been field in her favor by the plaintiff are found to have been executed *without independent advice*. The Zemindaris of the Bijni Estate are stated to be *impartible* and the parties to the suit are *to enjoy the profits thereof* in equal proportion: the defendant *required* to furnish the plaintiff with accounts from the 9th March 1883, the date of the death of the said Raja.

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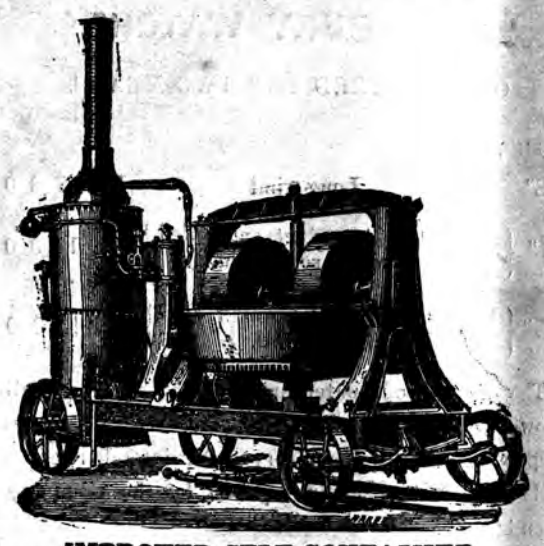

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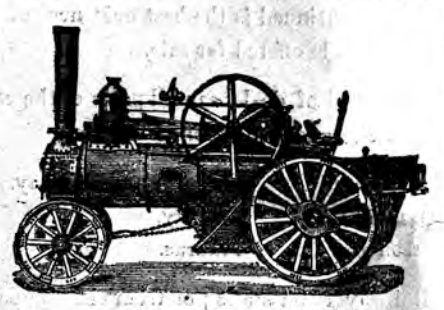

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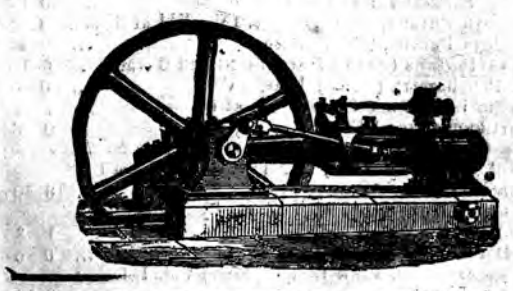

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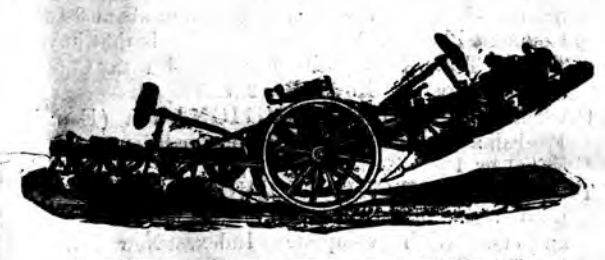

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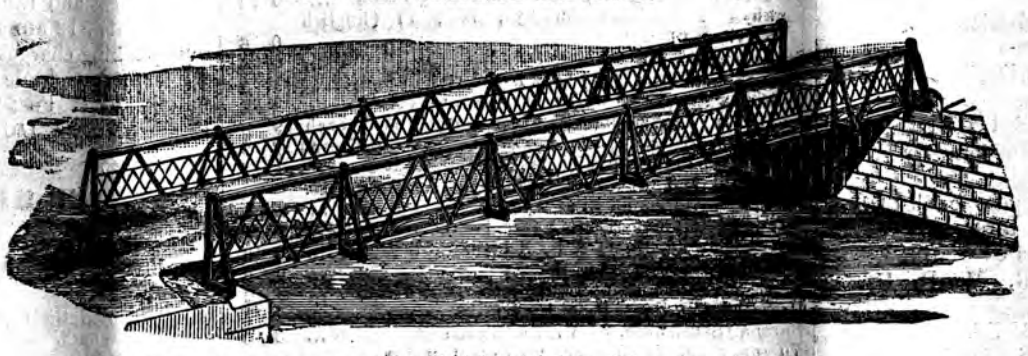

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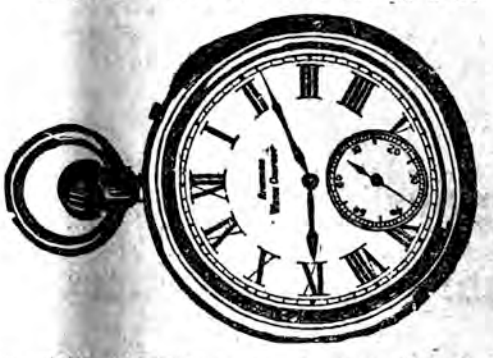

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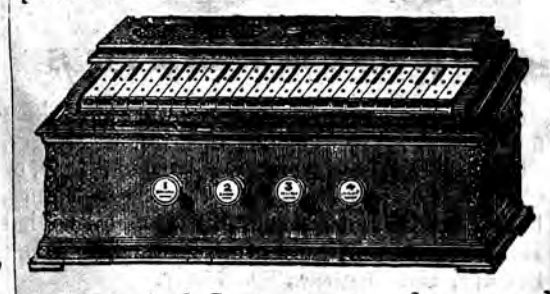

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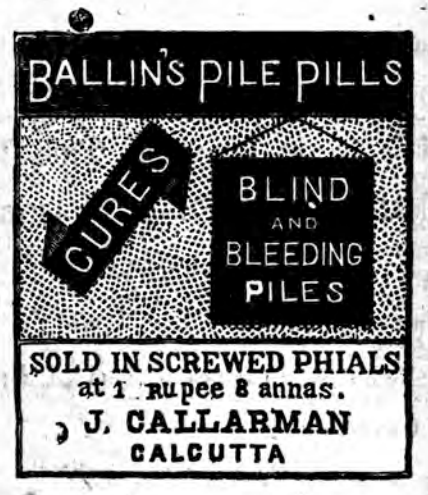

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